

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02935 041202Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----116987 041204Z /23
O 041146Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1648
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2935

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

AMMAN FOR USDEL ATHERTON

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, US, IS, EG
SUBJ: SADAT MESSAGE TO BEGIN

REF: CAIRO 06642

1. AT DINNER LAST NIGHT (MAR 3) EX-PRIME MINISTER RABIN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH TO DCM ABOUT "TACTICAL ERROR" SADAT HAD MADE IN SENDING LATEST MESSAGE TO BEGIN. VERSION OF LETTER RABIN WAS PURVEYING (WHICH HE CLAIMED CAME FROM SOMEONE WHO HAD SEEN IT) WAS MUCH FRIENDLIER IN TONE AND MORE MILD AND CONCILIATORY IN SUBSTANCE THAN LETTER IN FACT IS.

2. ACCORDING TO RABIN BOTH TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE WERE A MISTAKE. RUPTURE OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH SADAT WAS BECOMING A MAJOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL LIABILITY FOR BEGIN. HE HAD CONFIDED TO INTIMATES IT WAS ONE OF ELEMENTS OF BREAK-DOWN IN DIRECT EGYPTIAN - ISRAELI DIALOG WHICH WAS MOST PERSONALLY DEPRESSING AND ON WHICH HE FELT MOST EXPOSED.

3. WITH RECEIPT OF LETTER, RABIN SAID, BEGIN SUDDENLY FEELS
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VINDICATED. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE PUTTING OUT LINE THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVE TO RE-ESTABLISH PERSONAL COMMUNICATION PROVES THAT BEGIN'S TACTICS HAVE BEEN RIGHT ALL ALONG. INTERNAL PRESSURES ON SADAT COMBINED WITH GROWING PROBLEMS WITH ARAB WORLD HAVE FORCED SADAT TO RE-EVALUATE HIS NEGOTIATING STRATEGY WITH THE ISRAELIS. HIS "FRIENDLY MESSAGE" TO BEGIN IS FIRST RESULT OF THIS REASSESSMENT.

4. COMMENT. HOWEVER SELF-SERVING RABIN'S COMMENTS MAY BE, WE
ARE STRUCK BY RAPIDITY WITH WHICH BEGIN APPEARS TO HAVE SIEZED
ON SADAT'S INITIATIVE TO ATTEMPT TO TURN IT TO HIS ADVANTAGE.
NO NEWSPAPERS ARE PUBLISHED TODAY BECAUSE OF SHABAT, BUT WE
ANTICIPATE TOMORROW'S PRESS WILL BE QUICK OFF THE MARK IN
EXPANDING ON THIS LINE.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT MESSAGE TO BEGIN
TAGS: PGOV, PPDC, US, IS, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR), (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
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Type: TE
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